

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image processing apparatus comprising:
a compression processing section which compresses
and encodes image data;

5 a storage section which stores the encoded data;
a code separation section which separates and
stores the data encoded by the compression processing
section in separate regions of the storage section in
accordance with a separation scheme set;

10 a key information preparation section which
generates, as key information, information indicating a
region in which each of the separated coded data is
stored in the storage section and information
indicating the separation scheme;

15 a code synthesis section which synthesizes the
separated encoded data stored in the storage section,
in accordance with the key information; and

an extension processing section which extends the
encoded data synthesized by the code synthesis section.

20 2. The image processing apparatus according to
claim 1, wherein the set separation scheme is to
separate, the encoded data into direct-current and
alternating-current components.

25 3. The image processing apparatus according to
claim 1, wherein the set separation scheme is to
separate, the encoded data into red, green, and blue
components.

4. The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the set separation scheme is to separate, the encoded data is separated into cyan, magenta, yellow, and black components.

5 5. The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the set separation scheme is to separate, the encoded data into data blocks.

6. The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, which further comprising an interface section
10 to be connected to an external device to communicate therewith, said external device having a storage section in which the encoded data separated by the code separation section is stored, and in which the coded data storage control section stores the separated
15 encoded data in the storage section and in the storage section of the external device, and the key information preparation section generates the key information including information that indicates a storage region in which the separated coded data is stored in the
20 external device.